

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS  
COUNCIL

PRODUCE  
IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

# IOWA HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA



## Come on in: The State Historical Museum of Iowa is open!

We're delighted to announce that the State Historical Museum of Iowa reopened this morning, three months after closing amid the coronavirus outbreak. During this first phase of reopening, the museum's new visiting hours are **9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday**. (The State Historical Society's Research Centers in Des Moines and Iowa City and the State Historic Sites remain closed to the public.)

The health and safety of visitors, volunteers and staff top our list of priorities, and we've developed a plan to minimize risk. Visitors are encouraged to wear masks and to follow the health and safety instructions posted throughout the building. Staff are following the latest protocols from the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Today is a turning point for the museum, just as this year is a turning point for Iowa. If you have artifacts or documents (printed or digital) that could help future generations understand how the Covid-19 pandemic affected life in Iowa in 2020, please [consider donating those materials](#) to the State Historical Society of Iowa, which has been preserving and sharing Iowa history for more than 160 years.



## Working for Racial Justice

As America's march toward racial justice gathers momentum, especially in these last few weeks since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the State Historical Society of Iowa continues to support equity, diversity and inclusion in communities across the state.

There are lots of ways to learn more, including an online guide to [“Talking About Race”](#) that the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture designed specifically for parents and teachers. The State Historical Society of Iowa’s social media accounts often feature lowans of color, including this video about [the pioneering filmmaker Oscar Micheaux](#), who lived in Sioux City.

Along those lines, the State Historic Preservation Office continues its federally funded efforts to document Iowa’s struggle for [African American Civil Rights during the 20th Century](#). This past weekend, we teamed up with the Iowa Architectural Foundation and Pyramid Theatre to virtually celebrate [the grand reopening of the Edna Griffin Building](#), the site of a successful integration protest in 1948 in downtown Des Moines. (It’s pictured above, then and now.)



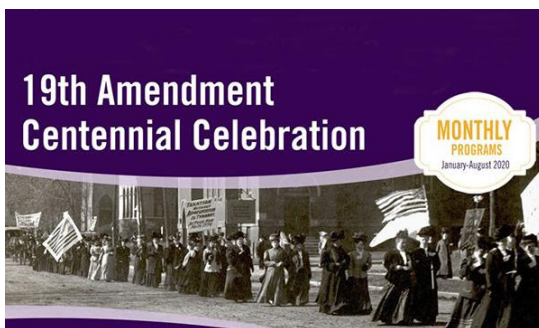
## Emergency Grants Top \$1 Million

Earlier this month, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs awarded [\\$1.1 million in CARES Act grants](#) to help [173 of Iowa’s arts, history and culture nonprofits in 51 counties](#) rebound from the coronavirus pandemic. These grants, added to an earlier round in April, brings the department’s sum of emergency relief to more than \$1.3 million, thanks to funding from the Iowa Legislature, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities – and *unanimous* support from Iowa’s congressional delegation.

## Preserve Iowa Summit

The first-ever virtual [Preserve Iowa Summit](#) earlier this month was a resounding success. In all, nearly 500 people tuned in from 15 states to hear 66 presenters share their expertise during 32 sessions. All for one important cause: to preserve and share history.

The State Historic Preservation Office extends its gratitude to this year’s co-hosts with the city of Dubuque and looks forward to next year’s summit, June 3-5, 2021, in Council Bluffs.



## Women's Suffrage, for ALL Women

A traveling exhibit called [“Toward a Universal Suffrage: African-American Women in Iowa and the Vote for All”](#) opens June 30 and remains through July 31 at the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Both the exhibit and a [related webinar](#) at noon July 7 examine the particular struggles and victories of non-white women in the broader march toward full suffrage. These programs are part of our ongoing celebration of the [19th Amendment Centennial](#).



## Goldie's At-Home Summer Expeditions

Before Carrie Chapman Catt become a world-famous political activist, she was Carrie Lane, a girl from Charles City. Learn all about her childhood and her influential role in history in a [virtual activity and lesson](#) co-curated by the State Historical Museum of Iowa and the Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home & Museum. This resource is part of the new [Goldie's At-Home Summer Expeditions](#), posted online each week for young historians and their families.





### Iowa History 101 Online

Circle the second and fourth Thursdays of the month on your calendar and tune in to the "[Iowa History 101](#)" webinars with State Curator Leo Landis. The first three sessions in the series explored Iowa's history of [baseball](#), [corn](#) and [automobiles](#), and plenty more are coming up:

- June 25: [Prohibition and Temperance](#)
- July 9: [Film](#)
- July 23: [Iowa State Fair](#)
- Aug. 13: [Women's Suffrage](#)
- Aug. 27: [World War II](#)



### Folk Arts in the Classroom

Fine arts and social studies teachers from 12 Iowa schools are literally weaving traditional art techniques into their lesson plans, thanks to a new Iowa Arts Council program called [Folk Arts in the Classroom](#). This month's professional development workshops have shifted to an online format, with at-home art kits and video sessions with folk artists. After the teachers complete their training, each of their schools will receive funding for art supplies, field trips or in-class visits from folk artists.

*Pictured: Luther College Nordic Studies students exploring the art of kroting at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.*

## Upcoming Events & Programs

### Programs & Events

June 25: [Iowa History 101: Temperance & Prohibition webinar](#)  
 June 30-July 31: ["Toward a Universal Suffrage: African American Women at the Vote for All"](#)  
 July 7: ["Toward a Universal Suffrage" webinar](#)  
 July 8: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)  
 July 9: [Iowa History 101: The Movies webinar](#)  
 July 23: [Iowa History 101: Iowa State Fair](#)  
 Aug. 13: [Iowa History 101: Women's Suffrage](#)  
 Aug. 27: [Iowa History 101: World War II](#)

### Grants

Aug. 1: [American-Scandinavian Foundation Grants](#)  
 Aug. 12: [Public Humanities Projects](#), National Endowment for the Humanities  
 Ongoing: [Barn Preservation Grants](#), Iowa Barn Foundation

### Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing: [Visitor Experience Volunteer](#)  
 Ongoing: [Archives Special Projects Volunteer](#)  
 Ongoing: [Museum Special Projects Volunteer](#)

Please check our [online calendar](#) for more events and opportunities across the state.